

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-4, 6 and 8-11 are amended, and dependent claims 13-17 are added. In addition, non-fax copies of the fax-filed drawings are submitted.

The independent claims are amended to even more clearly distinguish over the applied reference. Support for the claim amendments can be found throughout the original specification. For example, Fig. 4 illustrates that the ISC correction is performed during the entire time that the AI performance flag (and the air pump) is on. Support for the subject matter recited in the added dependent claims can be found in the specification at, for example, paragraphs [0086]-[0091]. The attached drawings merely are non-fax versions of the original drawings. Accordingly, no new matter is added by the amendments.

Applicant notes with appreciation the identification of allowable subject matter in claims 5 and 7. Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth below.

Claims 1-4, 6 and 8-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,050,086 to Ishizuka et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

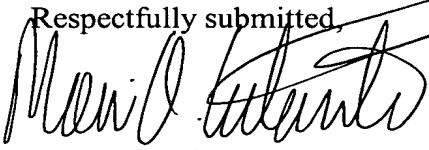
Ishizuka et al. discloses an arrangement in which the air intake amount is increased when a catalyst heater is activated so as to compensate for an increase in load on the engine caused by the catalyst heater. See, for example, col. 1, lines 25-42 and col. 3, lines 21-24. In order to address this situation, Ishizuka et al. teaches delaying activation of the heater. Ishizuka et al. supplies secondary air to the catalyst initially without activating the heater, and then the heater is activated subsequently (whereas in the prior art discussed in Ishizuka et al., the catalyst heater is activated during the entire time that the secondary air is supplied). Thus, in Ishizuka et al., there are times when the secondary air is supplied without activating the heater. See, for example, col. 3, lines 48-58 and col. 4, lines 1-12.

Ishizuka et al. does not recognize that the air pump which supplies the secondary air also adversely affects the engine load (and thus the engine speed), and thus does not address this problem. In fact, Ishizuka et al. teaches trying to avoid increasing the intake air amount (see, for example, col. 5, lines 59-62), and achieves this goal by delaying activation of the catalyst heater until a time that is after the secondary air begins to be supplied. Thus, Ishizuka et al. teaches that the intake air amount is not further adjusted during the entire time when the secondary air is supplied, but rather only further adjusts the intake air amount when the catalyst heater is activated.

Accordingly, Ishizuka et al. does not disclose or suggest what is recited in the independent claims of this application. In particular, with respect to independent claims 1, 4 and 8, Ishizuka et al. does not disclose or suggest performing increase correction of the intake air amount adjusted by the adjusting device "during substantially and entire time period during which the air pump performs an operation of supplying the secondary air." Similarly, with respect to independent claims 6 and 11, Ishizuka et al. does not disclose or suggest increasing the intake air amount by a derived increase correction amount "during substantially and entire time period during which the secondary air is supplied." Accordingly, all pending claims of this application are patentable over Ishizuka et al. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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JAO:MAC/ccs

Attachment:

Replacement Drawing Sheets

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DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
AUTHORIZATION
Please grant any extension
necessary for entry;
Charge any fee due to our
Deposit Account No. 15-0461

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheets make changes to Figs. 1-5 and replace the original sheets with Figs. 1-5. In particular, non-fax versions of original Figs. 1-5 are provided.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets